Made in India exhibition in Lahore, Pakistan

237. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Commerce is planning to organize a 'Made in India' exhibition in Lahore, Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government of Pakistan has allowed only exhibition of products to be displayed at the expo, and not granted permission for on the spot sale of all products;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to ask Pakistan Government to reconsider and allow on the spot sale of all products; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), in association with Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), is organizing the Made in India exhibition at Lahore from 10th to 16th November, 2005.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Pakistan has conveyed permission for display of all durable and industrial products and on the spot sale of non-durable products only.

(d) and (e) FICCI is going ahead with organizing the exhibition as per the permission given by the Government of Pakistan and not requested for reconsideration of the same.

Asian Economic Community

238. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently India has espoused vision of an Asian Economic Community, like the European Union, which would encompass the ASEAN, Japan, China, South Korea and India, to help

achieve economic integration of the region to drive Asia's emergence as the epicenter of global economy; and

(b) if so, the details of views expressed, if any, by other Asian countries and further initiatives taken/proposed to be taken to carve out a viable regional economic union?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The idea of an Asian Economic Community, bringing together the ASEAN 10, Japan, China, Republic of Korea and India was first put forward by India at the 2nd India-ASEAN Summit held in Bali, Indonesia in October, 2003. The subject was again raised by Prime Minister at the 3rd India-ASEAN Summit held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on November 30, 2004. India had suggested that if the fourteen countries combined into a broader Asian Economic Community, it could promote their overall competitiveness and create a new engine of growth for the entire region.

(b) The idea is being discussed by ASEAN countries among themselves and can be expected to only gather strength in a steady manner. A broad consensus in India is also emerging at the same time. The RIS, an autonomous think tank, has organized two international conferences in 2003 and 2004 on the Asian Economic Community for opinion building in favour of the idea. The first RIS organized international conference was held in New Delhi on March 10 & 11, 2003 and the second conference was held in Tokyo on November 18 & 19, 2004. These were participated by eminent scholars, experts and policy makers from China, Japan Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Mizoram as a gateway to ASEAN nations

239. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mizoram is all set to become a gateway to ASEAN nations;

(b) which are the other centres for trade with ASEAN in the NE region;

(c) what are the main exchangeable items across the borders; and

(d) how far will this help to improve the economy of the NE region?